

July 10, 1999

The Honorable Dan Glickman Secretary of Agriculture USDA 200-A Whitten Bldg 1400 Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC 20250



Sir

Enclosed you'll find petitions containing the signatures of a few of the people from our fair city who are not enamored with genetically engineered products being a part of food production with no opportunity for consumers to decide whether it is in their interest or not, via proper labeling. Millions of people in the USA do not feel bioengineering has a place in our food system at this time. Yet, the USDA and some of our nations largest corporations have decided to go ahead and devote large percentages of acreage for key crops to this experiment.

If there is opposition, as I imply, why are the voices not louder? You know the voices are not quiet. One key elements driving the several hundred thousand responses to the proposed NOP was the possible allowance of biogenetics. These people did not simply want to protect the standards of organic agriculture, they also wanted to assure access to foods certified free of genetic manipulation.

Current voices would be more numerous and louder had the USDA done the proper thing and required clear labeling of products containing ingredients derived through genetic science. The vast majority of the public is unaware their potato chips, Crisco, salad dressings, margarine, French fries, frozen foods, Doritos, and much, much more have been created using the sciences of bioengineering. Were these products proudly labeled with this message, you and I both know you would be hearing significantly rnore than you are.

It is a horrible injustice that you and corporate America have gleefully embraced agriculture utilizing genetically engineered seeds, pesticides, and other inputs. The real crime however, is the lack of disclosure. In a country which prides itself on public disclosure and the right to choose, you have turned your back on your duties and failed in fulfilling the public trust. Please rectify this wrong, and immediately begin requiring full disclosure of all food products derived in part or whole through genetic engineering. Many European countries are fulfilling their duties on this score, ... let us not fall any further behind.

Sincerely,

Brad Smith Merchandising Manager

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Petition to Secure the Mandatory Labeling of All Genetically Engineered Foods Submitted to the President of the United States, Congress, USDA and FDA

New substances are being introduced into our foods via a technology called genetic engineering. A growing number of scientists and physicians are voicing concern over the possible health and environmental risks from these foods. Current laws and policies do not require the food industry to label these new genetically engineered foods. Without labels consumers lose the freedom to choose what they will eat and feed their families. This petition upholds the right of consumers to make informed choices.

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